

A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

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WE LEARN TO DO BY DOING

It is one thing to dream about a better order of things a day in which there shall be no oppression of one class of men by another, a day in which every child shall have the opportunity to become a fully developed man or woman with a place of dignity in society. It is another thing to do something practical to bring that condition to pass.

The Co-operatives present a method by which the change is being made. Every day in the little transactions of business the co-operator is doing his bit to more evenly distribute wealth and put the ownership of the means by which wealth is distributed in the hands of the people who create it.



Farm Women's Corner

CONTRIBUTION TO FARM WOMEN'S CORNER

Dear Ladies:

By the time this comes through the press — and into your hands the war will be over we hope, as it evidently seems but a matter of hours to see its close, and what a relief to thousands and even millions to see the end of the conflict — and with every hope the Pacific war will terminate earlier than anticipated. But let us pay tribute to the boys who made all those things materialize — for our Liberty — so we can live here in a country free from fear and want.

Let us congratulate our Government in voicing their opinion that the Sunday after Capitulation should be a day of Thanksgiving; for we know Providence has been the means of winning many a battle for our side — if we take an interest — and go through the annals of history. Who could imagine the end of this cruel war could have terminated so suddenly when we go back — and wonder at the immense strength of the enemy at the commencement, when we were so unprepared?

The past Five years have meant desolation to thousands — yet it has been an age of many inventions — miracles, strife — discontent — although increased incomes were enjoyed by some industries. And during the coming years of Peace one wonders — what it has in store for the millions who inhabit the earth.

In this Peace conference — which is taking place at this very moment, should come the fruits of a lasting peace, and we trust we will experience it specially. We as women — should feel so very proud of our Edmonton "woman representative" Mrs. Cora Casselman. What a wonderful position she acquired to be able to attend such a conference, so let us women at home — altho' going through the busy spring season on the farms — take time off, and take an interest in the affairs of the government in general — besides the interests of our own welfare and organization, for when peace returns — other problems will face the country — unemployment and depressions. So let us unite strongly — so our own industry survives and from an educational point of view, profit from the depression of the 30's for our sacrifices in rural communities are great and if we do not wish to produce anything for less than production cost then unite as other industries and professions have. It is ourselves who are going to bring our liveli-

hood to a more profitable way of living and the combined efforts of both Farm "Women" and "Men" will be required to do this in the future and besides our Union gives us great interest — so kindly attend the meetings with your husbands for this organization is getting larger year by year. Try and get more members interested, ladies — for if the Peace Conference in San Francisco can accomplish great things then let us in our own organization accomplish great things also.

"Just a Member".

Shakespeare once said: — "Two women together make cold weather". It is my believe if twice 2,000 farm women got their heads together we could make things hot at times in respect to "Security of Land Tenure" and "Parity Prices".

How near to that goal of 4,000 women members will have in our Union by the end of 1945? Are you each doing your bit to achieve this end? Have you talked to the farm woman on your neighbouring farm or do you find yourself procrastinating each time you meet her. "Procrastination is the thief of time", don't postpone the opportunity any longer. Pay that neighbour a visit soon, tell her what the A. F. U. has accomplished, what we are trying to do, and the need of such a Union; how we Farm-Women can benefit by a strong membership at this time and invite her to become a member. For surely she knows that her work on the farm and in the farmhouse must be recognized as essential, both in war and in peace. I don't need at this time to mention the jobs that are considered womens jobs on the farm yet we should take the same interest in all things pertaining to farming as we do in doing these particular jobs. Why don't we all join and attend the A.F.U. meetings? Help our men to get for us the Parity Prices we deserve. It is in joining, attending the meetings, taking an active part in these things by bringing forward, our farm-home problems in the form of resolutions to our locals to be passed on to the Sub-District Convention; then to the District Convention and finally any worth while resolution would find its way to the Annual Provincial Convention of the A.F.U. to be dealt with by all.

Our farm-women's problems may find their way to the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, even onto the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, yet by putting off these visits to the neighbours or refraining from saying the right things

at the right time, we are neglecting to fight the good fight here on the home front.

This will mean so much to making that home coming just what it should be, for that man, boy or girl SOON to be returning from the battlefields of Europe. (I Hope).

Mr. Morton Thompkins, Master of the Oregon State Grange, in his address to the delegates at the A.F.U. Annual Convention urged the farm women in this country to get into the Union as a **part of this organization**; even the male listeners seemed to agree with all he was saying — at the time —. I am quite sure that we have more than 2,500 married men in our Union, yet we have only that many women members. Why don't **farm-wives** join, is it the men to blame? NO! I think we women blame the men for too much, may be we want coaxing too much; let us do things for ourselves from now on. We realize that the women should be in this Union, so let each and every one of us get busy and see that the job is done to our liking.

"WE DO NOT STAND ALONE" was food for thought. Such letters, as the one in the March issue of the A.F.U. Bulletin from Mr. T. Smart, President of Three Lakes Local No. 467, was really worthy of the paper and space and time and the author is to be commended on his efforts. About two pages of Good Reading of its kind could do 5,000 times **more good** for the welfare of our members than the reading material of the two back pages of the April issue of our Bulletin. For we surely get an over-dose of this advertising stuff of one kind or another in every paper we pick up. The April issue just meant that our members just had 14 pages of reading instead of 16, for when a reader's eyes met the 15th page (as far as I can learn all said the same thing — Dash the luck — what happened here?) How many new subscribers can we get for our Bulletin if we fill it with advertisements of this kind? All — well — and — good the little farm ads such as Mr. W. Dallaire's to let us know that he has choice Yorkshire pigs for sale. Many people will appreciate the news where one can purchase fine Pekin Ducks, but to give up two whole pages, one half-page then another quarter page to stuff we are so sick of hearing about over radio and seeing in every paper, is just too much of not — good — enough. We all get the Co-Op News.

Mr. W. E. Wilson of No 418, should now write a sequel to his "When is a Pig? an entitle it "When is a Pig, Not a Pig?"

After all we have a very fine paper in A.F. U. Bulletin; let us all strive to keep it so.

We are all waiting for the "Big News" by the time this goes to press I hope we have it and this awful war over. So that the ones that have sacrificed their health, strength, time and home-life may return. To these we bid WELCOME

HOME. Yet to those that will not return, let us try more than ever before to build up a Democracy which they believed they died to save.

Talking about sacrifices. We hear so much about these days. Also — "High taxes, of one or another," and "Buying Bonds" through which we will be able to redeem our once lost homes or build a much better one — out of the savings. However, I remember reading about when you pay your taxes or buy a war bond, you think you are giving the government money to buy bullets, tanks, guns and planes. As a matter of fact, that is not why paying taxes and buying bonds are important. If you didn't do either, the government would go right ahead and buy all the weapons of war that the manufacturer could produce. But — if you did not put your money into the bonds or pay taxes with it you would have too much money and might compete with the government for labor and supplies. The chief object of high taxes and buying bonds is to cut down the buying power of the people. Thus the ration system, the curtailment of spending, rather than the mere raising of funds to speed the return of our boys, must be the goal of our financial policy in war-time.

Borrowing or Bond buying is a fairly painless way of diverting huge sums of money that might otherwise be spent for luxuries. Most people feel much better about getting a nicely embossed bond in exchange for their money, but will raise heck at paying taxes. Yet when they lend money, they have really made no sacrifice at all. They are as well off financially as they were before. Now that will bring more thought to our minds; hundreds of thousands of boys and girls back from war and out of war plants. What shall we do with them? We naturally turn our minds back to the hungry thirties; we surely can't have that all over again. So! What? How many feel like bothering their heads about "post-war conditions" we hear people say "post-war conditions" will just have to be better than they were the last time. But beyond that, very few feel like actually doing anything about it. Only about 20,000 Alberta Farmers are interested enough to join the A.F.U. thru' which organization, if well enough organized we can really help to bring about the necessary pressure on those in authority, whereby something can be done. Some people are interested in "Markets" both "home" and "Foreign" especially for our primary produce. And some really believe that only the scarcity of a commodity will give it value. Hoping my neighbour will quit raising hogs so that my hogs will be more valuable, then I will raise twice as many and so on.

In future let us look before we leap, then we may not have to be hungry in a land of plenty. We must not over Produce; which I'm sure we

never have, the trouble is we never could get the right kind of seed to plant. Say, if we could plant a twenty-acre field of oats with an harvest yield of one hundred bushels per acre or forty times as much as we sowed; and the next 20 acres we sow with cents with a harvest yield of 40 times as much as we sowed we would find that we farmers would really have the money to purchase the goods and repairs we need as well as pay our debts. But the way we now farm; we grow the oats and wheat, etc., produce the butter, cream, eggs, meat, wool, hides, etc., and depend on the financial barons to distribute the dollar bills; allowing Mr. Farmer not one single word in the matter of markets or prices. In the matter of finance we'll always find ourselves holding — the — bag and it will still be empty for us farmers unless we get into the stride and help our-selves.

Mrs. J. Geddes.

The following is contributed by Mrs. Pharis, Secy for District No. 12.

Farmers all over the world are at last awakening to the need for organization. In our own district calls are coming to the District officials for help in organizing new Locals. From Coast to Coast, Farm Forum Groups have been meeting weekly, for four years, to study and discuss problems of the Agricultural Industry. These discussion have been both instructional and inspirational, and are promoting much thought and action toward the economic betterment of rural dwellers. Heretofore the energies of the farming population have been spent in the effort of production alone. Farmers have often been heard to say: "The field of marketing is not our Business." No doubt there are financial and industrial interests which would have us continue in this belief, for as long as the farmer is content to produce that which will fill the coffers of the processors and distributors, just so long will these interests hold him in their power. If major food producing countries, like Canada and the United States, continue to be dominated by financial and industrial interests, the farmer will continue to provide food at less than the cost of production.

Although one third of the population of Canada and two thirds of the population of the world are engaged in the production of food, there has never been enough food. Mankind has never been more than a few months ahead of starvation. There have always been the underprivileged and undernourished. Canada's policy has for too long reflected a disposition to take food for granted, to regard farming as a job which anyone can do, even under depressed conditions. There is evidence that our whole economy has

been based, at least unofficially, on cheap food. Only when the Canadian Government was faced with a food shortage during the War. were wages allowed to rise, farm prices were allowed to rise considerably, and any differences in the two levels were made up in part by bonuses and subsidies. By support of this National policy, Canada has admitted that labor has never received remuneration sufficient to permit the payment of a proper price for food — a price adequate to allow a decent living for the farmer.

The next few years will be crucial years for Canadian Farmers. Will Canada continue to base National Policies on realities? Or will she be forced back to the old days when the farmer had to take the rap?

Despite the fact that some 250,000 young men and women have left the farms for the Armed Services and Industry, the year 1944 was a record production year, when the overall figure of \$1,751,700,000 from the sale of farm products was reached. Not since 1928, when cash income was \$1,063,800,000 had Canadian farm cash income exceeded the Billion dollar mark till 1942. The low point was reached during the depression in 1932, when the cash income amounted to only \$383,500,00—an average of \$111.00 per family. In this present terrible conflict our sons, many have given their very lives battling, fought for a Democracy which, during the Depression, had no place for their youth. There was no work for them, and whole families lived on the pittance which poor crops at 16 to 30 cents per bushel brought in. Children were undernourished, deprived of medical and dental care, forced to do without an education. It required ten years of steady increases for farmers to get back to the 1928 level after 1932, whereas the drop in cash income occurred in four years. Even with present prices we find few farmers equipped with labor saving devices, either indoors or out. Many farm homes are sadly in need of repair. We lack modern bathing facilities, electricity and refrigeration. We lack beauty and leisure, recreational and educational advantages for the young. Our methods of processing and distribution are costly, and will remain so as long as these important functions are carried on by those working simply for the money they can make. It would seem that the time has come when this end of the business can no longer be left in the hands of corporations to whose interests it is to keep the price spread as wide as possible.

The great processing and distributing companies have amassed huge fortunes from the labor of the farmer. They are able to invest millions in Bonds. Had farmers been awake to the possibilities of organization and co-operation, these same millions might have been invested in better homes, in bonds for old age, in education

for our children, in labor saving devices for tired wives and men old before their time. By organization alone will the farm people come into their own — the right to a fair share of the National Income, the right to a standing in the affairs of the Nation in proportion to their contribution to the National Welfare.

Thousands of our young people helped to win this war. Many will not return to the land of their birth. Some will return and seek to establish themselves upon the land. Do we want them to pass through an era as heart breaking as that of the thirties? The only possible way to prevent it is by a strong farmer organization — so strong that whatever political party is in power the united voice of the farm people cannot be disregarded.

In the Union the membership of the women is just as important as that of the men. We also welcome the boys and girls, and find them very helpful in many ways. At present the most important thing needed is an increase in membership, for until at least 51% of our number are aligned behind one movement, our own Government will not consider our demands seriously. Furthermore, we need the help of every Local in organizing the outlying districts. Do not leave all the work and responsibility to a few. Be a lifter not a leaner. In the words of China's beloved first Lady: "It is easy to watch the other fellow carry the load."

Our organization has but one aim—a square deal for Agriculture. To devise ways and means to accomplish this objective we need the help of every individual. We cannot look to other interests to help us. They are too busy trying to protect themselves, and have exploited the primary producers for too long to permit them any advantages.

However students of economy are convinced that if all the people are to be fed, something must be done. This was proven by the finding of the Virginia Conference held in August of 1943. There for the first time in history delegates from 44 allied Nations met for the purpose of drafting ways and means of righting a great and unnecessary evil — the fact that never in all time, have all the people, in any one country, had all the food they needed to sustain life and health. Our own Canadian L. B. Pearson, was appointed chairman of the Interim Commission on Food. This Conference recommended that the Governments represented effect legislation each in its own country, along the following lines: That food production and food resources be increased to meet immediate requirements; that nutritional standards for all people should be increased, and that plans should be made for the formulation of a permanent organization in food production along the lines best suited to each

country. It was also recommended that farmers be assured adequate credit on favorable terms, that producer and consumer co-operative societies be encouraged, that research along Agricultural lines be developed, that education in rural areas be expanded, that scientific leaders for service to rural areas be trained, and the development of a more general understanding of rural problems be promoted.

Surveys of land and water resources were recommended, study of methods for combatting soil and water losses, also the employment of the best methods for remedying these conditions. The last recommendation I quote: "Freedom from want cannot be achieved without freedom from fear. Therefore the principle of mutual responsibility and co-ordinated action must be affirmed in order to establish conditions of international security, and to make possible an expanding and balanced world economy." To these recommendations there will be much objection from those who have exploited the primary producers—labor and the farmer — for generations. These two classes make up more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the population. Organized properly we can demand that the recommendations of that Virginia Conference be carried out. It was possible to co-operate to win the war, it is also possible to co-operate to win the Peace, for the Peace will not be won till all the masses of the world are properly fed, and have economic security.

"You need the Union," "the Union Needs You."

M. B. Pharis.

NOTICE

The number of paid up members of the Alberta Farmers' Union to May 30, 1945, is 18,189.

Small Arms Ammunition For Farmers

Extract from letter of Ration Administration of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in reply to A. F. U. resolution:

Referring to item (1) of the resolution, may we say that we have no record of any government Order reducing the quality of shells available for use. On the contrary, we are assured by manufacturers that their production since the beginning of war has been of a standard quality, and that in several instances is of a higher quality than the pre-war standards. Possibly you could give us further information on this point.

As to item (4) of the resolution, this is the first complaint of this kind we received, and we believe that we have in the past allocated sufficient shot shells to allow retailers to honour special purchase permits issued to essential users.

MORNING OBSERVATION

Even in these days of pseudo prosperity, many of the people we meet on the street look far from cheerful. Some are plainly worried about something — maybe a relative in the war, possibly about the approaching dead-line for income tax returns, or maybe they dread the economic chaos that they instinctively sense will follow victory (?)

We hate to see these expressions of mental distress in others. They are as depressing as a cold rain. Then there is another type we meet each morning: the "go-getter" fellows, always in a hurry, chins protruding, their "mental eyes" fixed on some distant goal, and a general bearing which seems to say: "Get out of my way, I'm hell-bent and determined to get mine while the getting is good."

We glance in the store windows and see items now marked \$5.97 that, three years ago, were selling for \$1.98. At one place the assistant window trimmer is arranging a pair of shoes on a walnut pedestal. Outside the head window trimmer is watching and directing the man inside. He motions for the assistant to angle the pedestal a little more to the right. The assistant obeys but angles it a little too far, so the boss has to motion him to angle back slightly to the left. In order to sell a pair of \$5.00 shoes for \$12.50 it is highly important that they make a good "first impression" on the mind of the potential customer. The art of displaying merchandise adds nothing to its real value but the merchant, as such, is not interested in real values. It's the profit value that concerns him.

We wander over into the financial district and watch the "brief case parade." Here we find hundreds of men who are all, directly or indirectly engaged in that great American game, the acquisition of wealth created by others. Of course, they are giving something in return, but, if they are "successful" that which they give is worth less than that which they receive, otherwise they would never reach that financial status which enables them to pose as successful citizens who have the right to look down upon those who are foolish enough to "trade even," or give the other fellow a little the best bargain.

Personally, the majority of those who never feel quite fully dressed without a brief case under their arms, are fine fellows. They belong to various clubs, churches and civic organizations. They give freely to charity and to the Red Cross. Some of them never drink, and others never get drunk — except at private parties. All together they are fine fellows engaged in enterprises that conform to the revised statutes even though they sometimes ignore the Golden Rule. Under the present system they become more or less necessary, yet the fact remains that they are being

supported by those who actually create the wealth.

The majority of them are probably proud of their "lines," and it would never occur to them to think otherwise. However, there is a great change taking place in social thinking. The mere accumulation of wealth is no longer as respectable as it once was and the time may come when the grandchildren of some of these "accumulators" may be a little hesitant about telling their friends the line of business that grandfather used to be engaged in.

In contrast, the time is coming when we will bestow our honors upon those who gave to society as much or a little more than they received from it. The creation of real wealth, tangible or intangible, will always be a respectable occupation.

Extract from
SIMPLIFIED ECONOMICS.

Sub-District Conventions

DISTRICT No. 1:

Sub-District No. 2 at Fairview, Friday, June 15th, at 2:00 p. m.

DISTRICT No. 2:

Sub-District No. 5 at Grimshaw, Friday, June 29th, at 8:00 p. m.

DISTRICT No. 3:

Sub-District No. 1 at Barrhead, Saturday, June 23rd.

Sub-District No. 2 at Dapp Hall, Tuesday, June 26th, at 2:30 p. m.

DISTRICT No. 4:

Sub-District No. 1 at Waskatenau, Monday, June 25th.

Sub-District No. 2 at Smoky Lake, Saturday, June 23rd.

Sub-District No. 3 at Vilna, Friday, June 22nd.

Sub-District No. 4 at Ardmere, Monday, June 18th.

Sub-District No. 4 at Glendon, Tuesday, June 19th.

Sub-District No. 5 at Elk Point, Wednesday, June 20th.

Sub-District No. 5 at St. Paul, Thursday, June 21st.

DISTRICT No. 6:

Please Note the Change of Dates

Sub-District No. 1 at Egremont, Tuesday, June 19th, 1:00 p. m.

Sub-District No. 2 at Ardrossan Hall, Wednesday, June 20th.

Sub-District No. 3 at Mundare, Thursday, June 21st.

Sub-District No. 4 at Vegreville, on Friday, June 22nd.

Sub-District No. 5 at Andrew, on Saturday, June 23rd.

SYNOPSIS OF EXECUTIVE MEETING MAY 1st, 1945

The Executive met a delegation from District No. 6 composed of Messrs. Milsap, Koenig and Oliver to discuss Union action to maintain prices after the war and also the collection of membership dues by the taxation route.

It was reported by the committee that the Provincial Government would prefer not to introduce a method which savoured of compulsion and would rather take the co-op approach and one that would be in accord with the wishes of the majority of all farmers.

The secretary gave a verbal report of Mr. Eliason's, Secretary United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section), visit to Edmonton when he and Mr. Streeter, the President of the "On to the Bay Route", interviewed the Premier of Alberta with regard to advancing the cause of the Hudson Bay-Churchill Route.

A letter was received from the secretary of a local in District No. 11 suggesting that two organizers be put in the field and a strong organization drive be made in that district. The same local also requested that a letter be written to the Premier of the Province asking for an explanation of the meaning of the amendment to the Co-operative resolution which stipulated that "savings" accomplished by Co-operatives should be distributed to their members within 12 months after the expiration of that year's business. This has been done and the matter of the organization work has been referred to the Board of Directors.

The date for the summer meeting of the Board of Directors was set to commence June 14th. It was decided to invest \$2,000.00 of general fund in Victory Bonds.

RETURNED MEN — PENSION CASES

I have attended a hearing of the Pension Appeal Board where the affairs of one of our Union members was under review.

As a result of the representation made by our Counsel, Mr. J. A. Ross, regarding the long delay which takes place before some of these cases are dealt with, the Board expressed the wish that we make it known, through the A.F.U. Bulletin, that any returned man who has had his first application turned down can make an appeal by writing to District Pensions Advocate, Redwood Building, Jasper Ave. and 113 Street, Edmonton, and the matter will be dealt with without delay. Also send copy of letter to Secretary Alberta Farmers' Union.

H. E. Nichols,

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FROM THE BOTTOM UP Our Sub-District Conventions

Any organization which is formed with the purpose in view of putting the wishes of the common people into effect, seems to be continually faced with new problems. These problems seem to come into being and increase as the organization grows and becomes greater in strength and effectiveness. The tendency is then for the organization to become either bureaucratic or autocratic and either one is the enemy of democracy.

Those of us who have seen many organizations brought into being and grow and then die; or else enter into a comatose state of uselessness wish to guard against the possibilities of the Alberta Farmers' Union following either of these courses.

The Alberta Farmers' Union came into being because of intense dissatisfaction with the economic conditions of agriculture and the failure of all other organizations to find a real remedy for the Dis-Parity of prices and conditions which made such a sharp contrast between farming and other occupations. Our slogan has become "Parity Prices for Farm Products" and we have made up our minds that these are to be gained not by hooking up with any one political party or by trying to overcome the price disparities which exist by any roundabout methods; but only by Direct Action. The other methods just mentioned have been tried and have failed. In the minds of most farmers direct action means primarily for us to get into such a position that we can DEMAND, with a great big D, a square deal for Agriculture. Many methods have been tried in the past and they have failed in their ultimate objective. During the lifetime of many of us who have been farming we have experienced two great wars and on both these occasions the farmers experienced a brief period of time during which they enjoyed approximate Parity Prices. Therefore let us look at the issues clearly. The only two occasions that we have had approximate Parity

Prices have been during a time of war. It required a period of National stress for farm prices to attain what may be described as Normalcy. By this we mean that parity prices have only been attained by the inexorable pressure of the circumstances of war. Sheer necessity has forced a recognition of the intrinsic value of farm production which is often lost sight of under the plentiful production of peace time which allows artificially low prices to prevail merely because the farmers produce in abundance.

These present prices have not come about as a result of famine conditions or any other extraordinary circumstances; but are the result of a steady demand for goods produced under conditions which compelled a living wage to be paid for every job done and therefore represent what may properly be termed as NORMAL. The low prices for Agricultural products which have prevailed in the past and which have become regarded as NORMAL by people outside of Agriculture have only been possible because the farmer and his family have worked for very low wages (or none at all) and is not a fair basis upon which to compute future prices for farm products; because if we are going to have a prosperous post war period it will have to be built on a prosperous Agriculture into which all costs of production will enter.

If farmers will recognize these facts as facts they should know how the situation must be handled. The purpose of our sub-district conventions is to bring the efforts of the Union into the closest possible touch with all farmers both Union and non-Union, so that all farmers will be aware of these facts.

We have also taken steps to point out to the leaders of the industrial and commercial workers Unions that Parity Prices for farmers means better wages and employment opportunities for their people and requested their support for our program. The response from the leaders has been gratifying and what remains to be accomplished is to arouse all workers to a realization that our proposals for getting results must be implemented or if ours do not suit, to suggest some that will.

In order to make sure that our Union continues to pursue the course which was laid down for it in the beginning, it is essential that all members take an active interest in the affairs of the Union. The policy of attaining Parity Prices by direct action is the principal one and as it is one upon which we can UNITE the big majority of farmers it should be kept right in the forefront and we must not allow ourselves to be sidetracked by comparatively unimportant side issues which will only DIVIDE our farmers and add nothing to our strength.

What is the Union Doing for Its Members?

Pembina Flood

It is almost a year ago that excessive rains in the Pembina Valley area caused disastrous floods which brought a lot of suffering and a great deal of loss to many farmers located in that district. A fund for the emergency relief of the victims was started in District No. 9 at the time of their convention and other locals of the Alberta Farmers' Union responded to the appeal and an amount of over \$4,000 was subscribed. The Red Cross and the Provincial Government as well as others gave material help and the Alberta Livestock Co-operative accepted donations of livestock in addition to cash which eventually raised a fund of over \$20,000 and was the largest single contribution.

The Union also wrote to the secretaries of both Municipalities chiefly concerned and urged them to make formal application to the Provincial Government to apply for benefits under the Dominion Government Rehabilitation Act. We received no replies and as far as we know, no action was taken, although we wrote further letters urging this be done.

We co-operated with the Alberta Livestock Co-operative who engaged the services of a competent field man to make personal investigation and the total funds collected were distributed as fairly as possible. The financial statement of the contribution made by the Alberta Farmers' Union appeared in the May issue of the Bulletin.

The Union also appointed a committee to make investigations as some of our members reported that flood conditions were aggravated by the building of a railway embankment which dammed up an old natural water course which carried away flood waters in the past. As this is a violation of long established common law, the Union collected the evidence, prepared a memorandum and engaged legal counsel to present the case to the Transport Commission with the purpose in view of having provision made for flood waters to escape by providing adequate outlets or bridges through the embankment for the future.

No attempt is being made to collect damages as the only request made by our farmers is that provision should be made against a similar recurrence in the future. In view of the fact that some farmers had suffered heavy losses of grain and livestock, homes and buildings badly damaged, fences wrecked and sand and debris deposited on their land which may utterly ruin it for farming purposes, their fairness and forbearance is remarkable.

The Union has obtained the names of a number of the hardest hit farmers living in the vicinity of the worst floods and the case will be presented in June for the "Abatement of the nuisance" by our legal counsel who is preparing it.

If we are successful this will not only be a great relief to those farmers who are willing to give evidence and also contribute financially to the expenses which are involved; but it will provide a measure of security to hundreds of other farmers whose lands will not be subject to the same jeopardy in the future if the Commission decides that the natural outlets should be opened up so as to provide a more adequate getaway for flood waters.

This is one of the ways in which the Union is trying to help not only its own members but all farmers.

Foreclosure For Debt

We recognize there is considerable room for improvement in our laws regarding penalties for non-payment of debt. In fact there is good ground for the charge that while our courts administer the LAW, this is not always justice. One of our jobs as a strong Union must be to see that our laws are framed so that justice is administered.

We all remember how less than three years ago farmers were being reviled by the money lending corporations as being dishonest and wishing to evade their sacred contractual obligations. Since then prices have improved and the mortgage companies admit that the farmers are paying off their mortgages in an unheard of manner. Their tune is now changed and they are advertising the fact that they have lots of money to invest. You see Government bonds are not such a paying proposition for them as farm mortgages.

However, when you read that a farmer's debt has been settled, you should remember there are other ways by which this can be accomplished than by paying it in money. There is the foreclosure route, and a farmer's debt may be settled by losing his home and farm together with the results of a lifetime's work. So when you read Mortgage Company announcements that farmers are settling their debts, don't forget that this may not mean that the farmer is in the happy position of being able to pay; for it may mean that he has lost his home and farm.

In spite of the better prices prevailing because of the war many of our farmers are not able to take advantage of these conditions to get out of debt. Some of them are elderly and their sons have enlisted and they find themselves unable to get the right kind of hired help. Some of these farmers are being foreclosed on even

now and those who are still carrying a debt load into the post-war period may yet find that "interest" and "the law" still has the power to dispossess them. Let us never forget that it is the better prices as a result of war conditions which has saved the day for the farmers. That is the reason the Union is fighting for "floor prices" now and for Parity Prices as a long range policy to maintain a prosperous agriculture.

One of our members who is also an old timer of 40 years on the farm, has recently been foreclosed. His goods were piled out in the yard while his wife was sick in bed and his son, home on embarkation leave, was powerless to prevent the eviction of his parents in spite of the Farmer Creditor Arrangement Act, the Provincial Moratorium Act and other acts which are supposed to provide LEGAL protection to efficient farmers with fighting sons, who owe more dollars than their produce has brought them in return.

Crocodile Tears

What is this guff we hear from financial corporations, mouthing about the debt we owe these boys "which we shall never be able to repay"? That kind of debt is easily forgotten by them but the debt which bears interest and is only payable in money is the one which is not forgotten by them and payment will be wrung from the victim to the last cent even if it takes his heart's blood to pay it.

The Alberta Farmers' Union spent considerable money in the attempt to avert the tragedy referred to above and in the end the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada went against us. We were the only farmer organization to give any support to this case and although it was lost we were successful in getting an amendment to the Provincial Act which prevents future foreclosure while the debtor has an application for appeal pending.

It is for such purposes as this that we need our Action Fund and we want our farmers to rally to the call so that the Union may never be compelled to quit for lack of funds in the event they decide that the cause of justice demands that they take up a case for our members in particular and the general benefit of all engaged in Agriculture.

If you think it is worth while to contribute to such a fund, we shall be glad to have you do so. This is the time to create such a fund as most farmers can afford \$5.00 now better than they could afford two bits four years ago. It will cost any farmer individually many hundred times more than 25c to undertake a law suit to protect his interests and the proposal made here will cost you practically nothing and may be the means of saving your home and farm.

The amendment already obtained might be

the saving clause which will save YOUR HOME in the future.

Don't offer the excuse for not joining, that the Union is doing nothing. Investigate, and you will find out it is doing something for farmers all the time.

LETTER TO THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE FROM THE A. F. U.

The Secretary C. F. A.:-

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Action Program approved to date by the Alberta Farmers' Union and the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section), also the memorandum submitted to the delegation of the National Farmers' Union by the Executive of the A. F. U. privately.

We believe that security for the farm family and agriculture should be the key-note of a forward looking program, and this entails the necessity for floor prices immediately at such a level as to ensure a reasonable standard of living included in the cost of production.

These floor prices must be based on full production as otherwise the cost of production per unit will rise if a smaller quota is enforced.

With Parity Prices as the objective in view, it must be apparent that efficiency of production in industry must be met with equal efficiency of production in Agriculture.

However, to compete with other producers on a world price basis which will require Canadian farmers to undersell all competitors is to invite disaster. Equally to go on a restricted quota basis in order to curtail production and bring it within the capacity of an out-dated money system would be equally disastrous, and will result in partial starvation for somebody. Further, if our exports are to be restricted because we are unwilling to accept the goods which some other nation better adapted by nature to produce is anxious to trade in exchange, then we are not willing to let efficient production be the criterion of value — and some false standard will intervene.

We suggest that the only remaining logical remedy, and the only untried one is for the Canadian financial institution, i. e., Bank of Canada, to monetize Canadian production on a Canadian Parity Price basis and then export our surplus production in exchange (on a barter basis) for the surplus production of another country which we need and they don't; and then we sell the imports thus obtained in this country and charge such a price as will be in line with the purchasing power already distributed to our producers for producing our exports; — or on any other basis that may be acceptable to us.

The schedule for floor prices should be such as obtained during August 1944, (Action Program, section 4, page 4) while the Parity Price schedule for the West should be based on those prices proposed by the Alberta Wheat Pool as representing "Parity" in accordance with the policy enunciated by the Dominion Government in comparison with prices in 1926.

This policy was that all prices and wage levels should be considered fair and reasonable if they were not in excess of the highest price or wage paid between July 1926 and December 1940. If farmers were treated on the same basis, the following would show the difference between this estimated parity and the prices actually prevailing today.

Agricultural Prices based on Highest Price received between 1926-1940 inclusive

Wheat	\$1.60
Oats69
Barley90
Flax	3.00
Rye90

Hogs 200 lbs. on hoof at \$16.25 — \$32.50
 200 lb. hog dressing 80% — 160 lbs. on rail.
 Hogs @ \$16.25 on hoof — \$20.31 per 100 on rail.

Parity Price:

Rail weight 160 lbs. @ \$20.31 — \$32.49.

Agricultural Prices (with bonuses) received as at August, 1944

Wheat	\$1.35
Oats65
Barley70
Flax	2.75
Rye	1.40

Hogs \$16.50 per 100 plus premium of \$3.00 per hog — \$18.50 per 100 on rail price.

Rail weight 160 lbs. @ \$18.50 per 100 — \$29.60.

Parity Price:

Rail weight 160 lbs. @ \$20.31 per 100 — \$32.49.

In view of the forthcoming meeting with the N. F. U. in October we believe this viewpoint should be presented at that meeting because they have a provision in their program which states what we are advocating, i. e., "Fair prices to be paid to home producers, irrespective of world price".

We would like to know the reaction of your C. F. A. Board to these proposals as to us they seem of primary importance.

Secretary A. F. U.

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My Experiences with Co-operative Farming

By Dan. Gamache, St. Paul, Alberta
(in Co-op News)

Being just back from the week's course for co-operatives at the University, and aware of the wide interest in co-op farms by the many enquiries that have been received, I have decided to write a few lines to Co-op News on the subject.

I wish to share the knowledge gained by tackling the formidable task of remaking the average farmer into what I term a human being. Often farmers are creatures of habits and routines and resent new ways of doing things. Improvements must be brought in very gradually. One person on our farm resented the introduction of the horse cultivator, preferring to hoe by hand with more labor and time involved. As soon as the novelty of getting together had worn off, each one's pet routines clashed and quarrels frequently started over insignificant trifles. Nobody being present to lay down the law with an iron hand, the disagreements became magnified and resulted in the departure of most of our members in September last.

The energetic and resourceful farmers are successful enough today that they have no wish to risk a new way of life with the results as yet not proven by local experiences. So it has become apparent that it is hopeless to expect a success with those not so energetic or resourceful.

The Co-op Farm group at St. Lina is composed of the members of one family and has worked out fairly satisfactorily. The farm at Lake Eliza has dispersed and has been superseded by a group of brothers who will probably stick together.

Our Pioneer Farm, of which I mentioned that the members had nearly all dispersed in September last, is now in charge of a reliable couple with advanced ideas that will develop a bee farm and undertake industrial experiments. The operations are going to be restricted for the time being but not relinquished. When conditions change after the war, expansion may be possible. In the meantime experiments in community recreation will be featured as we feel we have put the cart before the horse in our previous experience.

I understand the Saskatchewan government is going to receive soon the report of its committee investigating the possibility of starting co-operative farms. When the members of the committee came to St. Paul last fall they visited the different co-operative farms, and although the members had not dispersed yet, I could feel the weakness of their position. I outlined to the

committee, the following plan which seemed the only practical one, judging from my experience and my knowledge of farmers as they are:

The plan holds as its basic principle that the change has to be carried on with the farmers where they are and carrying on the way they do with as little change as possible. It seems that many farmers will stay where they are until they die. Our hope is in the new generation that will take over in the future. The aims are still the same; that is, bringing to the farms modern conveniences such as modern plumbing, running water, electricity, leisure, education, removal of drudgery, culture and the comforts of modern life, with maximum health and happiness.

The experiment will rest on a tested organizer, of unfailing honesty, tenacious, possessing vision and the ability to inspire confidence. He will have full charge of the proposed unit. He will select a good location in a good prosperous settlement. He will acquire a site for a town and survey it. If the present town is in the right location so much the better if it can be replanned. He will build his headquarters with modern facilities, a machine shop, and a place for movies and lectures. He will need about 20 to 50 tractors with all the machinery that goes with them, also trucks, etc. He should have the help of an outstanding agronomist and a few good mechanics with teaching ability. He should have available some one specialized in social activities to organize sports, socials, music, etc.

A deal should be made beforehand with the farmers to do all their mechanical labor on their farm at a specified percentage of the crop. Gradually the crops will be those planned by an agronomist. Local farm boys will run the machinery under the guidance of expert mechanics. The ones gifted will train as mechanics and be given responsibility. All will be paid good wages for any work done and all fuel, etc., will be advanced by the co-operative at the start.

Farmers will realize shortly the savings in their farm operations based on scientific methods and the use of power machinery. Soon young men will locate at the centre as mechanics, assistant agronomists, etc. Young couples will like to be closer to the movies, to the library, to the modernized facilities of life.

Rural people, even if they buy many foods and gadgets of a mechanized world, are still leading a primitive life, with an increased production but no improvement to show for it. Defective eyes, decayed teeth, mental derangements on the increase and many ills are things that group effort alone can eliminate. The bright boys and girls are not satisfied with the prospects of farm life and are moving to the cities. By raising the level of farm life and making it more attractive, farmers will be able to hold their better sons and

daughters for the improvement of rural life. The future welfare of a nation must depend on making its agricultural industry prosperous and attractive to our rising generation.

If the success of co-operative farming depends on "remaking the farmer into what this writer terms a human being" and having some controller in charge to "lay down the law with an iron hand" then it is just as bad as nazi-ism.

Parity Prices for farm products will enable farmers to have modern conveniences such as those mentioned, i. e. modern plumbing, running water, electricity, leisure, education, removal of drudgery, culture and the comforts of modern life with maximum health and happiness. With regard to the two last mentioned blessings, we doubt very much if these would be possible under a system where the farmer has to be "re-made" to someone else's liking and "be ruled over with an iron hand"; because unless we have "freedom" neither true education, culture nor happiness can exist. (Ed. Bulletin).

CORRESPONDENCE OPEN FORUM

(The opinions expressed under this heading are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the official viewpoint of the Union).

Is it necessary to commercialize our Bulletin? Fellow members our Executive and Directors, I trust you will digest this in the spirit that it is given. On the evening of April 25th, the members of our Local met and in their discussions one particular subject came up which I believe should be of interest to all our members. In making a comparison of the two last issues of our Official Organ the Bulletin we find that in each issue there are sixteen pages. In the March issue we find also two small advertisements one from a Mr. Elliott, the other from a Mr. Meeks. Then in examining the April issue we find close to three full pages given over to Ads of different descriptions. Is this in line, gentlemen, with the wishes of the majority of your readers? We here believe that with the limited amount of pages given us in this valuable paper our space could be taken up with material more valuable to us all. The trifle we hear over the radio is quite enough for the average individual, that mixed in with War News and political propaganda is quite all one can stand. Personally I take it that our Bulletin was set in motion to give us instructive and constructive information and I believe is doing a good job in that line, and I deplore the fact that every member is not yet a subscriber, but those who are using their efforts

to increase the sale of this paper are going to jolt up against a snag sooner or later for people are not in favour of even paying the small price of fifty cents to get a few pages of advertising idea from the financial standpoint. I believe also that you have made a mistake, we are all prone to that. We of our Local are in accord that our paper be kept clear of commercialism. We have a Woman's section and I am glad to see items increasing from the fair sex. We have an Executive of five and thirteen directors if these between them and with the assistance of a good Secretary who has had lots of experience in this line cannot keep a periodical of sixteen pages going once a month, then for economy we would suggest reducing the pages. We trust that those good gentlemen whose ads appear will be lenient with us in their views we think that they gave their business believing it would be a financial help in running our paper but we kindly ask them to think it over and we would welcome the views on this important subject from other Locals. Here's wishing the Editor and all concerned in the work of our Bulletin the best of success. Members subscribe to your Bulletin it is the voice of organized Farmers.

T. Smart, Pres. Three Lakes Local No. 467.

Our A. F. U. meeting in May was a decided success. The meeting was held at Jersch Bros. Called to order by Secretary and Vice-President. Thirty-four were present, members and visitors.

Our A. F. U. Buttons had arrived and sold like hot cakes to hungry huns, at 25c each. Dan McGinn bought two—one to pin on his bottle of Scotch so it won't get mixed with his horse medicine again.

A letter was sent by the secretary to Mrs. Wood, M.L.A., requesting that the Government bridge on Deep Creek be replaced. Said bridge having gone out with the floods last June.

The spring here is very backward, only a few blades of grain have come shivering out of the ground: the dandelions are a little more brave.

And now wishing ourselves warm weather, and the A. F. U. prowess and power.

I am yours sincerely,
Local Scribe.

Tip To Farmers

To eradicate couch grass. One of our farmer members dropped the following hint when in the office recently:

Take some of the wires off your wire weeder and leave only five or even three and this will shake out the grass roots and do a good job.

(Let us know how it works. Ed.)

RESOLUTION

Resolution from B. C. block with request that it be put in Bulletin.

Rumors reaching us up here that too much time is put on C. C. I. L. by the provincial executive at the sacrifice of Union work (such as relieving Mr. Nichols as editor of the Bulletin and said bulletin used as propaganda for C. C. I. L. instead of Union interests) suggested a resolution be sent to head office opposing such views and have matter rectified. We are in favour of C. C. I. L. and such work but we want Union executive personnel to devote all their time and their effort for Union work.

LOANS TO FARMERS

The Government Farm Improvement Loans which recently came into effect are available from the local banks.

Farmers may now borrow money at 5% to improve the farm into a better paying farm unit.

Here are a few items many farmers need today:

1. Clearing additional land.
2. Constructing a pit silo.
3. Purchasing an ensilage cutter.
4. Buying better calves or cows for the herd.
5. Building better dwellings and barns.

Money for various other purposes is available under this government policy, and we suggest you go to your local bank and talk over your individual problem with the manager.

You may have applied for a loan a few years ago or perhaps a few months ago and were refused, but this has no bearing on the scheme.

Regulations stipulate that money must be used for the purpose for which it was loaned and receipts to this effect must be available.

Now is the time to expand your farm operations with 5% money.

RIM-FIRE CARTRIDGES OFF RATION LIST

Consistent with its policy of releasing controls whenever war and other essential needs have been satisfied, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has announced the removal of rim-fire cartridges from the list of rationed small arms ammunition. Rim-fire ammunition consists almost exclusively of .22 calibre cartridges, with relatively small quantities of .25 and .32 calibre cartridges also produced.

Although rim-fire ammunition may now be purchased through regular trade channels without Prices Board approval, permits issued by the Board are still required for the purchase of centre-fire cartridges and shot shells.

NEW FARM MACHINERY QUOTAS

All restrictions on the import and manufacture of repair parts for farm machinery and equipment are to be lifted July 1, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board announced recently.

Through a reallocation of materials production of new farm machinery for the 1946 season will be increased an estimated 30% over the 1944-45 output, according to H. H. Bloom, administrator of farm machinery.

Rationing of farm machinery will be continued throughout the 1945 season to ensure that limited supplies fill the most essential needs.

In the past quotas have been split between eastern and western Canada but this feature has been eliminated in the new farm machinery order, with equitable distribution in all districts.

In addition to new machines, repair parts, etc., which are made available for the ration, 17,933 tons of farm implements are being provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for distribution under the Veterans' Land Act.

Mr. Bloom pointed out that it was in the farmer's interest to make his machinery do if at all possible until more new machinery becomes available.

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What Co-operation Offers

The co-operative movement has never made the claim that its widespread adoption can eliminate all the economic troubles in any group or any nation. It does not offer itself as a cure-all. All that it claims is that co-operative methods of doing business provide the ordinary run of people with a means of securing control over such divisions of business as they are vitally interested in. It gives ownership to the masses and not to the individual. Co-operation prevents exploitation and provides a way whereby vital businesses can be conducted on a cost basis.

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